Collaborating with Kinship Caregivers as a Permanency Option
Presenters

• Jeanette M. Willis – AAOCOC Executive Director; Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrator (LCPAA)

• Sheri E. Abbey, LMSW – Adoption Programs Director

• Lois Miller – Director of Adoption Services
Welcome and Introductions

ICEBREAKER

ADVANTAGE ADOPTIONS – ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD
History and Impact

Introduction to the CWLA Kinship Model of Practice
Our Mission:

To find permanent adoptive homes for children in foster care through faith-based recruitment and collaborative community efforts.
## History

Utilizes OCOC recruitment model founded in 1980 by Father George Clements

- Established in late 1980’s
- Led faith-based minority recruitment in TX
- Emphasis on special needs or “hard to place” children
- Incorporated non-profit in 1995
- Licensed child placing agency (CPA) in 2005
- **Advantage Adoptions – OCOC** (since 2015)
- Serves families in Region 03 and children statewide
Father George Clements
Nearly 500,000 thousand children adopted nationwide.
AAOCOC Services

Adoption (CPS, matched and private)

Kinship Adoptions

Support Services (SAFETNET, Referrals, Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Toys)

Training (Professionals, Families and Children)
Other Programs

Faith-based Recruitment (since the late 1980’s)

Annual One Church One Child Calling Out

SAFETNET Family Services

Toys for Tots Host (since 2005)
Our Team

Board of Directors
(each 5+ years of service)
Workshop Objectives:

• Participants will be introduced to a model of practice for kinship caregiver collaboration and learn skills to work directly with kinship caregivers.

• Participants will identify how the model of practice has helped to address issues and challenges faced by kinship caregivers.

• Participants will learn of specific examples that support the need for kinship caregivers as a permanency option.
Kinship Care in the U.S.

• Nationally, relatives or family friends are raising approximately 2.7 million children because their parents can no longer care for them.

https://www.aecf.org/resources/stepping-up-for-kids/

In 2018, this represents 4% of all children in care and 26% of the foster care population

• Footnotes: Updated September 2018.
## Kinship Care in Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>259,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>249,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **8,506 or 29%** - Children in state supervised kinship foster care


**Footnotes:** Updated September 2018.
Kinship Care in Texas

According to the most recent Census estimates, there are 268,000 children living in an informal or voluntary placement kinship care situation in Texas.

In contrast, 10,400 children are formally placed through state-supervised kinship foster care, and 16,400 are placed in paid foster care.

In Texas, 90 percent of all children living away from their parents are in informal or voluntary kinship care placements.

https://forabettertexas.org/kinshipcare/
Why We Need Kinship Care

Children are considered to be in kinship care when all of the following conditions are true:

• a parent is not present in the household;
• the child is not a foster child to the householder;
• the child is not a housemate/roommate/border with no relatives in the household;
• the child is not a householder;
• and the child is not a spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.
• The analysis excludes group quarters population.

• **Footnotes:** Updated September 2018.
WELCOME

Introduction to

Traditions of Caring and Collaborating:

A Model of Practice for Kinship Family
Information, Support Groups, and Assessment
Objectives

• Share experiences and provide mutual support
• Describe the purpose, design, process and history of the *Traditions of Caring and Collaborating Model of Practice*
• Provide a working definition of kinship Care
• Identify the benefits of kinship care for children and families
• Discuss nine issues of concern for kinship caregivers
• Define five competencies needed by kinship caregivers and child welfare workers and other helpers
• Identify three desired outcomes of kinship care
• Complete a Caring and Collaborating Self-Assessment
• Develop Caring in Action goals

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Definition of “Collaboration”

Two or more people working together in a relationship with the following characteristics:

• Mutually beneficial
• Mutual respect
• Well-defined communication
• Clearly defined ways of working together
• Contributing unique knowledge and skills
• A common goal
Kinship Care
Issues for Consideration

1. Legal status
2. Financial support
3. Health and mental health
4. School
5. Child behavior
6. Family relationships
7. Support services
8. Fair and equal treatment
9. Satisfaction and recommendations

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Kinship Care Definitions

• Full-time nurturing and protection of children by relatives, members of tribes, clans, godparents, step-parents, or anyone who “goes for kin”

• Informal arrangements by family members

• Formal arrangements with public agency jurisdiction and oversight
Model of Practice Definition

- Vision
- Mission
- Goals
- Strengths-Based Language
- Evidence-Informed/Based Practices
- Outcomes
Traditions of Caring and Collaborating
Model of Practice

ISSUES
1. Legal status
2. Financial support
3. Health/mental health
4. School
5. Child behavior

OUTCOMES
1. Safety
2. Well-Being
3. Permanency

COMPETENCIES
1. Respect knowledge, skills and experiences
2. Build trust by meeting needs
3. Facilitate open communication
4. Respect the dynamics of “Double D” and “Double A”
5. Use negotiation skills, clarifying “non-negotiables”

Engage Phase
Assess Phase
Support Phase
Transition Phase

For the Children

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Traditions of Caring and Collaborating

Thank You!

We look forward to connecting with you next time.
Other Resources

Kinship Manual - DFPS
https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/Kinship_Care/

How Texas Can Support Kinship Care
http://forabettertexas.org/

Realistic Expectations for Kinship Families
http://www.emkpress.com/